Confidential

G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.
Geol 142-16

GEOLOGY

1917-18

(Geol)

File No. 60-17

Serial Nos. 1-4

Later references.
Geol 60-17 (1-15)

Preserve
Sign
16/5
31

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1-4

Part B for January 18

SUBJECT.

Question of forming a syndicate for prospecting for gold in the State

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W D 88—GPB—50,000—24-7-16

G. R. S. III—1] 1917-18

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(Geol)

NOTES.

File No. 60-17

FILE HEADING.

Question of forming a syndicate for prospecting for gold in the State

From

No.	Dated	Received

Diary No.	Enclos.	Spare Copies.	Serial No.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

NOTES—First Sheet.

WD 1232—GPB—20,000—1871-1o

T. O. I. No. 23715
Geol 60-17

SECRET [illegible] SCRE

D.O. No. 1.
Enc. yes.
Ltr [illegible] E.A. seen
Ltr [illegible] from me
for G.I. asked
(2) Brochure after
6.7.16

Kolar,
7th July 1916.

My dear Sir Venkataraya

I send you a short Note of my observations regarding a Gold Mine which looks to me worth investigating. I believe Government could get an option of purchase on the property.

The Chief Inspector of Mines may be asked for his opinion.

Yours sincerely

J. A. Bottomley

Gul 60-17

2

N o t e.

I believe the question is sometimes asked why the Mysore Government has no Gold Mines of its own.

In this connection, the East Beterayaswami Mine situated a few miles north of the Kolar Field may be brought to the notice of Government. This Mine belongs to Messrs. Knight Brothers, the Proprietors of the 'Statesman', a newspaper in Calcutta. Mr. Mervyn Smith worked this Mine for the Knights for some years, and sank about 150 ft and had some encouraging results.

However, nothing much was done, and in the year 1914, Messrs. John Taylor & Sons of London formed a Company with the option of purchase of the Mine. After having spent about £ 11,000, they gave up the option in May last, and have ceased working. They sank to a depth of 500 ft with drives 350 to 400 ft in length on the quartz. Some very good quartz was met with, has been brought up, and is lying on the surface now.

Of course, taking it as a whole, it has not assayed very well, though in places it is believed to have assayed as much as 3 oz to the ton.

There are very extensive old working. It is well-known that all the Mines on the Kolar Field have been through poor zones and it seems that if more work was done at Beterayaswami, there would be a very fair chance of success.

Gen 60-17

3

The Mine is likely to be going begging now, and hence this Note. The expenditure of a couple of lakhs of rupees would probably prove it definitely one way or the other.

No brief is held for any one in this matter. These are my personal observations, and I think there is here an opportunity to do some thing for ourselves in the Mining line, if Government will take a little risk. I presume Messrs. Knight Brothers would give us an option.

There are two good Bungalows on the property, and other necessary working sheds, machinery, &c.

If any thing is to be done, it should be commenced soon, as work having stopped, the shaft is filling with water which will take some time to pump out again.

The Director of Mines and Geology and the Chief Inspector of Mines may also be asked for their opinion in this matter.

Dated Kolar,
the 7th July 1916.

Deputy Commissioner
Kolar District.

Govt 60-17 Bangalore 8/7/16

U. No 4157

2) Issued & returned to Secretary, for further action - 8.7.16

1) My dear Mr. Bowring,

Many Thanks for ~~Letter to accept~~ of your demi-official letter No 1, dated the 7th July 1916, ~~enclosing~~ together with your note on the East Betterayaswami Gold Mine making certain suggestions for opening it ~~to~~ Min - The suggestions are greatly ~~if~~ valued

The questions raised in the note will receive ~~their~~ careful consideration of Govt. ~~I greatly value your suggestion~~

Yours Sincerely

8.7.16. P

Dewan

P. F. Bowring Esq
My Camp, Kolar

3) Do to Director Lands &c with Mr Bowring's letter for opinion & for ~~returning~~ forwarding of records, if any

Dewan
7/7.

4) Draft D.O. is submitted.

Asst 11.7.16.

5) Dewan 11/7
To Mr Ancello
D.O. no C.S. 150 dt 12.7.16 issued calling for opinion with records if any.

6) As no reply is yet received from the Director, a draft reminder is submitted.

Asst 16.8.16.

7) Dewan hdg. Record three weeks. Draw up fair for signature Dewan

18/8

G. R. S. 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Agri File No. 66 of 1917.

Serial No.	
2	From The Director, Dept. of Mines & Geology, D.O. no 630 & 19.8.16: States that a reply regarding the possibilities of re-opening the East Betarayaswami gold mine will be sent as soon as the report called for is received from the Chief Inspector of Mines. Submitted for information. A reminder will be sent on the 26th instant if the final reply is not received by that date. Asst 22.8.16. a) Returns raw Dy, Secy 28/8
	b) A draft reminder is submitted for approval. Asst 28.8.16. c) Secy 29/8
	Reminder issued on 29.8.16.
3	From The Director, Dept. of Mines & Geology & D.O. 733 & 2.9.16: Forwards copy of a note received from Mr. Bocquet on the subject, states that the chance of success is very meagre and suggests for the consideration of Govt a scheme for starting a large prospecting syndicate with the whole of Mysore as its field of operations in the search of gold. a) Submitted with references. Asst 5.9.16. b) The former lessees of the Mining Block would probably be glad to get rid of the property for some consideration Specially when they have found that the prospects are not encouraging. It does not at all

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

GPB—70.000—17-12-15

7274 C.S. 150 6

G. R. S. 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Govt File No. 60 of 1917.

Serial No.

deem desirable to spend 30 or 4 lakhs of public revenue on what is practically a Speculative concern.

14) Gold Mining has flourished in Mysore without Govt capital and almost wholly through the services of private capitalists.

15) The huge capitalists now deeply interested in the present Kolar Gold Mines will be at least as much concerned as the Govt themselves to find new blocks of a remunerative character as a provision against the possible Exhaustion of the present mines

16) No interference on the part of Govt seems called for at this stage

Dewan 6/9

Fin member & Dewan

110/6.9

17) The particular case in Govt can be settled finally. The Govt of Mysore cannot entertain further questions now.

18) The general Scheme suggested is worthy of consideration as one of future mining possibilities in Mysore — with which Govt should be more intimately connected The proposal may be dismissed in Council of the 8 Dewan Govt

HH 8/9
T.G.

1421 7.9.16

NOTE—Continue on sheet

GPB—70,000—17-12-15

1

G. R. S. 12]

C. S. 150.

General and Revenue Secretariat.	Govt File No. 60 of 1917
Serial No.	19) Vide dewan's orders dated 28th may 1917 on govt file no 143 of 1916-17.

para 6 of US+ notes E

Hm 28.5.17

NOTE—Contn. sheet

GPB—70,000—17-12-15

(96) £

Subject.-

Question of forming a syndicate for prospecting for gold in the State.

Opinion of the Council.

20) [illegible]

21) Secy
Please put up a draft-order to the effect that fresh mining leases for gold will not be sanctioned [illegible] until further orders.

HSS
14/9/17

14/5/17

WD 1233—GPB—60,000—1-12-16—S.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Geol File No. 6 of 1917

Serial No.

22) Submitted with a draft
AHS.
15-9-17

23) Gen Secy) 22/9/17

24) The draft order may be approved & issued to give effect to para 2 of the Council opinion dt 5/7/17.
2nd member & Dewan)

1860
22.9.17

24/9/17

25) Pro Jornal. Government in the Judy. Dept has also kept Council as a matter of policy

25-9

25/9/17

26) I agree with the Second Member. It would be necessary to issue confidential instructions to the Director of Geology. The matter should be submitted for His Highness' approval. Please return with a draft submission note.

21.11.17

27) Please submit draft

24/11/17

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

WD 1233—GPB—60,000—1-12-16—S.

10

G. R. S. III-2)

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Geol File No. 60 of 1917

Serial No.

N

P

28) D. F. N and a draft letter are submitted

29) There are six prospecting licenses for Gold current now — Should any of the licensees apply for a mining lease, Govt will be bound to grant it. (Vide rule 24 of the Rules for the Grant of Mineral licenses and mining leases). To provide for such a Contingency it has been stated in the draft letter that it is the intention at present not to grant any mining leases for Gold, where they are already under an obligation to do so.

2 Enclosures)

436
30.11.17

30) Reference

E/29/11/17

10/12

Exercise xii of 1 in addition.

31) Chapter

E/29/11/17

E/11/12/17

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

WD 1233—GPB—60,000—1-12-16—S.

7274

G. R. S. III-2)

11

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Gen File No. 60 of 1917

Serial No.	
3125 15/12/17	32) 2nd Member's Final Note is submitted with D.S.M. Dewan)

CBK 14/12/17.

CS 14/12/17

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

33) Final Note by the Second Member of Council.

Subject:—

Question of forming a syndicate for prospecting for gold in the State.

Mr. P.F. Bowring having suggested in his letter dated 7th July 1916 the re-opening of the East Betarayaswami gold mine in which considerable work had been done under the management of Messrs John Taylor & Sons, Dr W.F. Smeeth, M.A., D.Sc., Director, Department of Mines & Geology, was consulted and he stated in reply that the chances of success were very meagre but he proposed a scheme for starting a large syndicate to prospect for gold with the whole of Mysore as its field of operation.

Papers under disposal

2. When the question came up before me, I recorded the following minute on 7th September 1916:-

"The particular case in question is settled easily. The expert opinion is against any further quest for gold.

para 17 of leg under

The general scheme suggested is worthy of consideration in view of future mining possibilities in Mysore with which I think Government should be more intimately connected. The proposal may be discussed in Council if the Dewan deems fi

3. The matter was subsequently considered in Council and they are of opinion that the question might be considered later and that pending the decision of Government thereon no prospecting or mining lease should be granted for gold.

Draft for approval

4 A draft issuing confidential instructions to the Director to this effect is submitted for approval.

10th December 1917.

Member of Council.

34) *Submitted to His Highness.*

I submit herewith, a Final Note by the Second Member of Council on the question of the policy to be pursued in respect of the grant of prospecting licenses or mining leases for gold until a decision is arrived at in regard to the policy of exploration for gold in the State as a whole, for His Highness' gracious approval.

17th Dec 1917

Record of Cases submitted for the Orde
of His Highness the Maharaja.

35)

Subject.

Policy to be pursued in granting prospecting licenses or mining leases for gold.

746

Order.

~~KRW~~

28/12/17

36) Ch. Secy
1.1.18. Ro

37) Home 4/1/18

6.1.18

10.1.

7/1/18

AD 1233—GPL—60,000—1-12-16—S.

7274

G. R. S. III-2]

16

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Gol File No. 60 of 1917-18

Serial No. 4

To The Offg Secretary, Govt of Jodhpur.
No G 9107 dt 5-1-18.

Stated, with reference to pl 3, that pending the decision of Govt on the question of the policy to be pursued in respect of exploration for gold in the State as a whole it is their intention not to grant
(a) any further licenses to prospect for gold, or
(b) any mining lease, except where Govt are already under an obligation to do so.

(Submitted—with reference to paragraph 20 supra.
AHS.I
26-1-1918)

GEN. & REV. 1918 ... 16

This will be recorded & acknowledged
B.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

C.S.150 / Encl 1.

Geol 60-17 /

Bangalore,

Issued 12/7

11th July 1916.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to forward herewith copy of a Note dated the 7th July 1916 by Mr. P.F.Bowring, Deputy Commissioner, Kolar, ~~suggesting that Government may undertake the investigation of~~ on the East Beteraya-swami Gold Mine on the Kolar Gold Fields and to request you to favor Government with your opinion ~~in the matter~~ on the points raised therein. The records, if any, on the subject may also be kindly ~~furnished~~ sent for reference.

Yours sincerely,

Secy

11/7

Dr.W.F.Smeeth, M.A., D.Sc.,

Director of Mines and Geology.

17

Geol 60-17 2

D.O.
No. 630.

C.S. Bocquet

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY,
MYSORE STATE.

Bangalore, 19th August 1916.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your D.O.No.C.S.150, dated 18th August 1916, I have to inform you that a copy of your demi official letter No.C.S.150, dated 12th July 1916 and its enclosures, regarding the possibilities of reopening the East Betarayaswami Mine, has been forwarded to the Chief Inspector of Mines for report after consultation, if necessary, with the Superintendents on the Kolar Gold Field who know the mine and that the report has not yet been received. I have issued an urgent reminder to Mr. Bocquet and will send you a reply as soon as the report is received.

Yours sincerely,

D.M. Narasinga Rao, Esq., B.A., B.L.,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY,
MYSORE STATE.

Bangalore, 2nd September 1916.

No. 733

Encls- one note,
one map
& one file
No 195-A 906-07.

DIARY NO 7274

Dear Sir

With reference to your D.O. No.C.S.150, dated 11th July 1916, asking for my opinion on the advisability of reopening the East Betarayaswami Mine, I thought it best to first obtain an independent opinion from Mr. Bocquet as he has a more intimate knowledge of the work done there during the past two years.

2. I enclose for your information a copy of a Note received from Mr. Bocquet on the subject. The Note and the attached plan shows clearly what has been done. The old workings go down to a depth of about 150 ft. and a little fairly rich quartz was found near the bottom of them which had not been removed by the old workers. Several levels have been driven on the quartz vein at intervals below the old workings down to a depth of about 500 feet and these have shown clearly that the presumed shoot or patch of gold ore on which the old workings were sunk does not extend to any appreciable depth below them and further that in the quartz vein at lower depth - down to 500 ft. - there is no sign of any new shoot of ore. The work has fairly well proved that the vein is valueless to this depth and for a considerable distance laterally. The expenditure on this work has been about Rs.4½ lakhs of which £ 11,000 has been spent in the past 2 years under the management of Messrs. John Taylor & Sons.

3. This is a very considerable expenditure and a very thorough test considering the isolated character of the old workings. If, instead of being isolated, these old workings formed part of a line or run of gold workings I would advocate further work, but as it is we have not got a shred of evidence

to

to suggest that this quarts vein carries shoots of rich ore sufficiently extensive or numerous to render work profitable. It is quite true that if we sunk another 500 or 1,000 feet in depth we might encounter a shoot of ore or even more than one shoot. There is nothing inherently impossible or even improbable in this, but judging from my experience, both on the Kolar Field and elsewhere, I should say that the chance is a poor one and that the money spent on the work would, in all probability, be lost without reasonable hope of recovery. In order to carry out the work ~~he suggests~~ Mr. Bocquet estimates that an expenditure of £ 20,000 to £ 25,000 would be required a part of which might be recovered subsequently by sale of materials.

4. As pointed out by him it would be practically necessary to install an air compressor in order to work rock drills, hoists, pumps and for ventilation and it might be advantageous to put up a transmission line from Balaghat to the mine so as to drive the compressor electrically.

5. Again, Mr. Bocquet suggests that if the work was to be undertaken it would be a great advantage to get Messrs. John Taylor & Sons to act as Managers and with this I quite agree.

6. As an alternative Mr. Bocquet suggests the expenditure of some £ 5,000 on merely exploring the bottom of the old workings further to see if any thing has been missed. I do not think this would be likely to lead to any thing, as there is certainly nothing in the vein below the old workings and the only chance left is that there might be another vein to the east which may not have been cut by the present workings.

7. With regard to further surface prospecting, I may mention that many thousands of feet of trenches with small shafts were put in by Mr. Mervyn Smith years ago and that I never saw any thing encouraging in them. Of course there is always a chance and it

would

would not be out of place to spend a few thousand pounds on putting down some shafts for 50 to 100 feet and making some drives and crosscuts as well as looking for other old workings. It would not be easy to get a prospector at the present time and I do not think we could get any one of any use for Rs.400 or 500.

8. For that sort of work I would recommend a man like Mr. Stromeyer who, if available, would probably require Rs.700 or 800.

9. If in spite of the very unpromising outlook, either of the above alternatives was decided upon, it would be necessary to obtain an option from the present Lessees - Messrs. Paul & Robert Knights who are probably in London - and ascertain on what terms they would grant it.

---

10. Apart from this specific instance and assuming that Government would be prepared to spend several lakhs of Rupees on such speculative work I may perhaps suggest an alternative.

11. In such speculative work where the chance of success is very meagre - probably much less than one chance in ten - it is not wise to put all the eggs in one basket and I would prefer to suggest a wider scheme in which a larger expenditure was spread over a number of propositions or ventures in which case, though most of them might be guaranteed to fail, success in any one would recoup losses and perhaps lead to a profit.

12. We have now tried so many places all of which have been failures that it is very difficult to get capital for further work. Messrs. John Taylor & Sons and their share-holders have at their command considerable amounts of capital and money is still coming in from the Kolar Field. We have

however

21

however to face definitely the extinction of the Kolar Field and before that takes place it might be worth while for both Government and the Kolar Companies to devote a substantial sum from their earnings to further efforts in the search for gold. Past failures of the best known propositions must necessarily discourage individual efforts or efforts on isolated ventures, but it might be quite possible to start a large prospecting Syndicate or Company with the whole of Mysore as its field of operations in the search for gold. Such a company might have a working capital of £ 100,000 of which £ 50,000 might be subscribed by Government and £ 50,000 by others most of whom would be the present Kolar Companies or their shareholders. The whole management to be under Messrs. John Taylor & Sons whose knowledge and experience of Indian and especially Mysore conditions places them in a peculiarly favourable position.

The idea would be to further prospect propositions which have been abandoned owing to results not being sufficiently favourable to attract further capital and to carry out new work where there is any suggestion of possible success.

13. The idea would be chiefly one of prospecting and preliminary development with the subsequent sale to a working company of any individual propositions in which sufficiently favourable results have been obtained and from which the sale prospecting Company would recoup expenditure and receive a share in the new company Whether such a scheme is feasible or not and the precise conditions on which it could be run are matters which I should like to discuss with the Taylors when I am in England and I shall be glad to know if Government will agree to my doing this. I am quite satisfied that if Government wish to take a hand in the prospecting for gold some such scheme as this is by far the most desirable and promising. We must remember that an enormous amount of work has already been done on the most promising shows and that some 30 to 40 lakhs has already been spent on them outside of the Kolar Field without any success. To go in for small

isolated experiments or ventures on the top of this work would be, I am satisfied, a waste of money. What we want is a large widely extended scheme backed up by a lot of money and in which success at any one point would recoup expenditure on the whole. I submit this suggestion for the consideration of Government as the result of a long experience and study of this problem and I shall be glad to be informed if Government are prepared to entertain it and permit me to discuss it with Messrs. John Taylor and Sons. In the meantime I would suggest that these proposals should be kept confidential and that no further leases or licenses for gold should be granted until it has been discussed. The file relating to the lease of the block is sent herewith for reference and kind return.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Smith

D. M. Narasinga Rao, Esq., B.A., B.L.,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

Note

EAST BETRAYASWAMI BLOCK.

Work done.

A vertical shaft, known as the No.1 Shaft, has been sunk to a total depth of 454 feet below surface. The reef which dips west at an angle varying from 75 to 77½, passes through the shaft at the No.3 level, which is driven at a point approximately 440 feet below surface. It comes into the shaft some distance above this point, but owing to the steepness of the angle of inclination only passes out at the horizon of that level. (No.3).

Crosscuts from the shaft in an easterly direction at 150 ft. and 300 ft. in depth respectively, intersected the reef, and from these were driven the Nos. 1 and 2 levels, north and south.

A winze was sunk on the reef from the No.1 to the No.2 level N. and from the No.2 to the No.3 levels, the latter being a continuation of the former, although the angle was altered to prevent the latter winze communicating with the shaft. At the No.3 level, still further north, another winze has been sunk to a depth of 75 ft., from the bottom of which drives north and south have been put out 78½ and 78 ft. respectively; operations then ceased (end of May last). This constitutes the deepest point in the Mine and is approximately 536 ft. below surface on the angle of inclination of the reef.

Briefly the work done can be summed up as follows:--

A vertical shaft sunk from surface to a few feet below the No.3 level.

Winzes from No.1 to No.2, from No.2 to No.3 and from

No.

No.3 to No.4 levels.

Drivages N. and S. at the	No.1	level - length	440	ft.
Do.	2	" "	366	ft.
Do.	3	" "	505	ft.
Do.	4	" "	1565	ft.

Various crosscuts and a side drivage were put out at the No.1 level, some stoping was done below it from an intermediate, while an air shaft was sunk from surface through the old workings and connected with it for ventilation etc.

It will thus be seen that a good deal of work has been done one way and another, all of which from below the No.1 level, with the exception of the stoping referred to - above and some trial winzes, has been carried out since March 1914 by hand labour.

Results obtained.

It is difficult to speak, with any degree of accuracy as to what was found in the way of values at the No.1 level, in the ground removed by stoping below it or in the trial winzes sunk, as there do not appear to be any authentic records available. It is stated however that in driving this level south through the old workings which continued to this depth, some very good assays were obtained from the pillars of quartz left by the ancients, while occasionally stones containing visible gold were met with. Water seriously - hampered the operations in hand and progress was so slow that whatever results were obtained can hardly be relied on as a true indication of what the old workings followed and went down on.

When work was resumed in 1914, the mine had first of all to be unwatered, after which it was decided to continue sinking the shaft and at the same time put down a winze from the No.1 level N.; details of these operations have already been

No.3 to No.4 levels.

Drivages N. and S. at the	No.1	level -	length	440 ft.
Do.	2	"	"	366 ft.
Do.	3	"	"	505 ft.
Do.	4	"	"	1565 ft.

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When work was resumed in 1914, the mine had first of all to be unwatered, after which it was decided to continue sinking the shaft and at the same time put down a winze from the No.1 level N.; details of these operations have already been

been given.

In sinking this winze to the No.2 level, the width of the quartz varied from 12 to 33 inches and the assay - value from a trace to 4 dwts. Between 120 and 130 ft. in depth, three assays were obtained of 17, 8 and 12 dwts. respectively.

In the north and south drives at the No.2 level, a strong reef was followed for a distance of 250 feet (N., 120 ft.; S. 130 ft.) the quartz reaching a width of 4 to 5 ft. in places. There were some very fair values each side of the winze for 45 ft. N. and the same distance S., isolated assays giving as much as 30 dwts., but the longest run of payable ground only measured 23 feet in length (S. drive); the quartz otherwise was either valueless gave by assay a trace or in isolated instances from 1 to 4 dwts.

A strong quartz reef was also followed in the winze sunk from the No.2 to the No.3 levels, the width varying from 15 to 48 inches but the values were very poor. There were three assays of 4, 10 and 8 dwts. at 27, 76 and 114 feet respectively, otherwise they varied from nothing to 2 and occasionally three dwts.

Again in the No.3 level the values except for a short distance (10 ft.) in the drive N., were either nothing, a trace or from 1 to 2 dwts. although the quartz was 36 inches wide in places. The short run mentioned occurred 25 to 35 feet north of the winze, assays of 8, 9, 10 and 17 dwts. being obtained over a width of 15 to 18 inches.

No values of any merit were encountered in the winze sunk below the No.3 level nor in the drives N. and S. from the bottom of it. The reef sunk and driven on is strong and well defined, the quartz varying from 12 to 24 inches in width, but by assay it only gave a trace.

From

From this it will be seen that taken altogether the results have been most disappointing since mining operations were resumed in 1914 and there appears to be nothing to warrant a continuation of these operations from the ~~f~~ results of the developments during the past two years.

However, the point now arises whether these deveopments have been carried far enough either laterally or in depth to prove the property and from my own experience of the Kolar Gold Field, I should say 'No.

It is a well known fact that the mines now in activity and at present being worked at great depths, have all passed through dull periods owing to poor zones of ground being encountered. Basing one's facts on this knowledge, it would appear to be safe to assume that there is every prospect of meeting with success in the case of East Betrayaswami, more especially in depth, but as there is never anything certain in mining, it cannot be definitely stated that even a payable proposition would be the result of further developments.

The nearest working mine - Balaghat - is over 2 miles south, which does not prove this property either one way or the other. On the other hand, the results of the prospecting work done on Plantation Block, which lies to the south-west, have proved hopeful, showing the existence of old workings in the neighbourhood as well as on the Block itself.

If Government are prepared to take the risk from a speculative point of view, then it would be worth while to continue operations and at the same time do some more prospecting on the Block itself, which although trenched over ~~@@~~ - in various directions, has by no means been definitely proved.

Unfortunately before being able to continue operations underground, the water difficulty would first of all

have

have to be overcome. The water has already risen to above the No.1 level and will in due course reach to within 70 or 80 ft. of surface in the shaft, or even nearer. This of course means a pumping plant to start with and small pumps fixed at the Nos.1, 2 and 3 levels in the shaft to keep the coming water.

Plant etc. required.

To prove the mine rapidly in depth, it would be necessary to instal an air-compressor capable of driving 6 drills and at the same time work the pumps. The power to drive an electrical compressor could presumably be obtained free of charge from the Government Transformer House, but it is quite possible that a separate line would be necessary to carry the current and also transformers for stepping up and stepping down purposes. A 200 H.P. compressor with motor would cost about 1500 £ (pre war rates) and 2 transformers £600 each. The Government Electrical Engineer would be able to say whether a separate line is necessary and its cost, cost of poles and charges for laying it. A building would have to be erected to put the compressor in, but outside the foundations, this need not be very substantial.

After unwatering the mine, a main winze should then be commenced at a point as far N. as possible in the No.3 level on the quartz shoot and sunk for a depth of 500 feet, with at least one intermediate drive N. and S. and another from the bottom of the winze to prove whether the quartz is auriferous in length. The present No.3 level N. should be continued to find out the length of the shoot at this horizon while crosscuts E. and W. would prove if there are any parallel reefs. All this work could be done on contract at rates - according to the nature and hardness of the ground encountered.

These developments should prove whether there are any

payable

payable ore bodies in this locality to a depth of 1,000 feet. and if none existed, then work should be stopped.

Another proposal, which merits consideration, would be to open up and unbottom the old workings before doing anything in depth. The existing old workings have not in my opinion been satisfactorily proved, as no work has been done on them since Mr. Mervyn Smith's time. It would be interesting to find out why the ancients abandoned work; whether it was owing to the poorness of the auriferous quartz or whether they were unable to cope with the influx of water at the depth (150 ft. approximately) reached. From the experience gained during the progress of operations in the last 10 years it looks as if the latter - as in many similar instances - were the case, judging more especially from the results obtained by Mr. Mervyn Smith and given that any reliance can be placed on the information supplied.

Whereas the outlay to carry out the first scheme out lined would necessitate an expenditure of £20,000 to £25,000 on the part of Government, with innumerable difficulties to contend against the chief being the want of adequate facilities to run a mine such as this which the mines on the Kolar Gold Field already possess, the second would only require a qualified prospector on Rs.400/- to Rs.500/- per month, a few - Indian mestri's and a timber mestri with a gang of 30 or 40 coolies and a fitter, engine drivers and firemen to work the existing hoist. The No.1 shaft would have to be --- equipped with ladders to the No.1 level and it would be -- advisable to instal a pump at that level to deal with the coming water. A small quantity of explosives would also be required from time to time and the necessary materials for

drilling

drilling and clearing stuff by hand labour. Roughly estimated, the cost for this scheme including other surface prospecting, should not exceed £5,000, drainage being one of the chief items and a standing charge.

If Government decide to do anything at all, I would suggest that the latter scheme be taken up in the first -- instance, as from the results obtained it could then be foreseen what chances of success the first scheme would be likely to meet with without involving the heavy outlay mentioned. The holders of the option spent about £11,000 on work which gave no returns and which has not definitely proved the Block one way or the other. Hence the advisability of carrying out prospecting operations over a larger area to discover if anything has been overlooked.

(Sd.) R. Bocquet,
Chief Inspector of Mines.

Copy.

Director,
Department of Mines & Geology

Dated: Bangalore,
2nd September 1916.

G. R. S. VI—G/32]

SUBJECT..... No prospecting licence or mining lease to be granted for gold until further orders.....

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Confidential

Diary No. of letter replied to..7274.

Section Geol
File No. 60-17
Serial No. 4

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,
( )
, *the* *191*

No. G 7107

Date of issue..5/1/0..

To B. Jayaram
Offg Dy

Signed by.....

Dear Sir,

With reference to Dr W. F
Smeeth's D.O. letter no 733 dated 2nd
1916 suggesting for the consideration of Gov
a scheme for starting a syndicate for
prospecting for gold in Mysore,
desired to state that the question
policy to be pursued in respect of
for gold in the State as a whole is
consideration of Govt and that pending
decision on this question it is their inten
not to grant

over.

P.U.D.